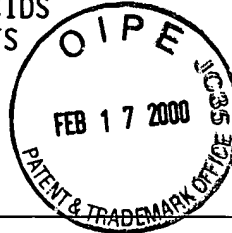


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. 09/118,730
Filed: July 17, 1998
Inventors: Ellington M. Beavers et al
Title: METHOD OF MAKING FREE ACIDS
FROM POLYSACCHARIDE SALTS
Examiner: E. White
Art Unit: 1623
File No.: 281-28



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL, ON THE DATE SHOWN BELOW, CHARGES PREPAID, HAVING THE EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NUMBER SHOWN BELOW, AND ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231.

BY Kathleen E. Shy
DATE 2/17/00
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EJ231924227US

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Action of October 14, 1999. A Petition for Extension of Time, and a check for \$190.00, are attached. Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown:

1. (Twice Amended) A free-acid form of hyaluronic acid [suitable
for placement permanently or temporarily in the body], made by the method

comprising the steps of:

a) dissolving an alkali-metal salt of hyaluronic acid in water to form a solution,

b) dispersing in said solution an acid capable of producing a pH of 2.2 or lower at concentrations in water at 25° C of 0.01 Normal to 1 Normal,

c) enclosing the dispersion formed in step (b) within a semi-permeable membrane having a molecular weight cut-off at least large enough to

#11/B
3-2-00
D. Shy
(NE)

OK to enter
this Amendment
E.W.
3/6/2000